

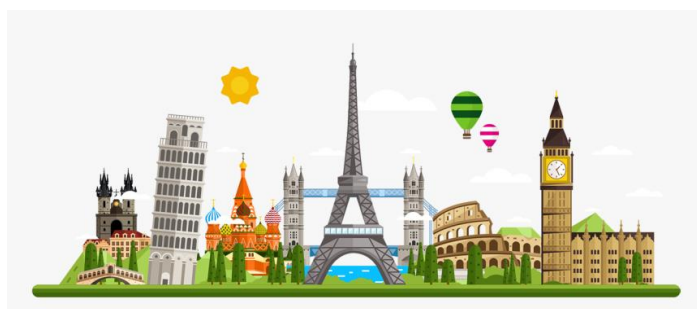


## Badgers Class Newsletter - Term 1

Welcome to Year 4! Where did those six weeks go? We hope you all had a fantastic summer break and are ready for the new school year ahead. It was lovely to have a 'full house' on the first day back full of smiling faces and lots of chatter about their exciting summer holiday adventures.

### Our Curriculum

This term our Humanities topic is called 'European Adventures'. The mainly geography-based topic will involve looking at a range of different maps and see us travelling off to different European countries looking at aspects of both physical and human geography such as rivers, mountains, weather, famous landmarks, food, culture, farming and land use and festivals.



In Science, our theme this term is 'Living things and their habitats'. The children will be looking at how living things can be grouped and using different types of keys to classify them. They will also have the opportunity to study different plants and animals in their habitats and look at how humans can have an impact on the environment, both positively and negatively.

Our art work this term begins by developing our sketching skills and then focuses predominately on the use of warm and cool colours. The children will learn which colours fall into the two categories and experiment with a range of different media including oil pastels, felt tips and paint to produce several pieces of eye-catching work.



In Computing, we will be exploring the internet and looking at how the networks share information. We will be looking at who can access it, how we can add content and evaluating the accuracy and reliability of information found online. We will also be looking at how to keep ourselves safe when online.

PE will take place on **FRIDAY** afternoons. This term, our topic is 'Basketball'. Please ensure children come into school on this day with the correct PE kit. Girls must have their hair tied back and should not wear earrings on this day please.



Long term homework is not set formally but if your child is interested in researching something related to our humanities or science topics, they are more than welcome to do so and share their findings with the class. This could be a PowerPoint, poster, pictures and facts or model, for example.

Further information about our curriculum can be found on the school website.

### Mathematics

At the end of Y4, we have the Government multiplication check, so learning our times table is a huge focus during this year. It is expected that all children know their tables fluently up to 12 x 12 by the end of this year. It is a really important skill which links to so many other areas of maths so please help your child at home to learn them.



We work on times tables as part of our early morning work in class. The order in which they are best learnt is 2,5,10's then 3,6's then 4,8's and then 9,7,11,12's. All children need to be practising their timetables regularly at home. TT Rock Stars is a fantastic tool to make learning tables more fun and just ten minutes each day can have a huge impact. Login details for TT Rockstars can be found in the front of their yellow reading record books.

### English



Spelling shed is the new Spelling scheme that we will be introducing across the school this year to teach and practise spellings. The children will be focusing on a specific rule or pattern each week and competing different activities in class. New spellings will be issued every Tuesday in the form of a worksheet with the list of words to learn and some suggested activities to complete at home to help them consolidate their learning. The sheet is purely for use at home and does not have to come back into school each week. The children will be tested on their words the following Monday. All pupils now have a Spelling Shed account (log in details can be found at the front of their yellow reading record) which will give them access to online games that can also support them in learning their words each week. Please bear with us for the first few weeks while we all get to grips with the new platform, which we will be introducing to the children for the first time next week.

In Year 4, the children will continue to use the Accelerated Reading programme. All pupils have been assessed this week to identify their ZPD level and is shown in their yellow reading record. The children need to read widely within this range and don't go up a level each time they read a book. They complete a quiz on the book once they've read it thoroughly and this gives an indication of your child's comprehension level. Quizzes can only be done in school. The aim is to score 100% in a quiz (this earns them 5 house points). If pupils are consistently scoring under 60%, they may be asked to select books at a lower range to ensure that they are actually understanding what they are reading, not just reading the words.



If you have not already done so, please sign up to Home Connect. You will then receive an email each time your child complete a quiz in school and will also be able to find out how they are doing with their termly reading targets. Your child's login details can be found at the front of their yellow reading record.

We have an Accelerated Reading session every day, so please ensure your child brings their reading book and reading record into school and feel free to write in it whenever you read with your child at home too.



HELP PLEASE: If any parents would like to come in and support the class with their reading by hearing children read individually, please let the office know your availability. You would be very welcome and I would be very grateful.

REMINDER: If you would like your child to be able to leave school at the end of the day independently (rather than being collected by an adult), please make sure you have completed the consent form so that they can be added to the 'Walkers list'.

Many of your children may have talked about Miss Chan who is also working in Year 4. Miss Chan is a trainee teacher working alongside myself this year to complete her initial teacher training. This is a slightly different route into teaching from the one that Mrs Lopes completed last year as I will still have full responsibility for the class and will be in the classroom at all times this term.

If you have any questions about Year 4 or your child, please don't hesitate to make contact via the school office.

Mrs Driscoll & Mrs Turner